

REPORT

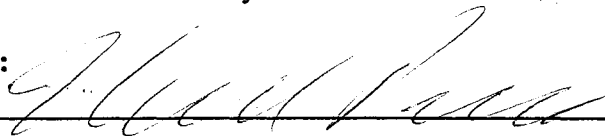
DATE: July 12, 2007

TO: Administration Committee/Regional Council

FROM: Hasan Ikhata, Director of Planning and Policy
213-236-1944 ikhata@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Study Tour on Public Transportation and Mobility in Switzerland

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve one (1) SCAG staff to attend the Study Tour on Public Transportation and Mobility to Switzerland to be held August 25 – September 1, 2007, in Switzerland.

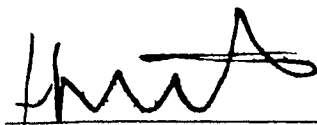
BACKGROUND:

Hasan Ikhata has been invited by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Los Angeles and Presence Switzerland PRS, an organization that coordinates Swiss presence abroad, to participate on a study trip that will provide insights in several fields of public transportation and mobility in Switzerland. This is a great opportunity to promote SCAG's premiere planning efforts to an international audience.

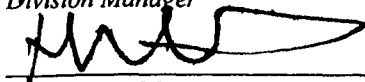
FISCAL IMPACT:

Approximately \$1,500 from the existing travel budget in WBS#07-010.SCGS7 will be utilized.

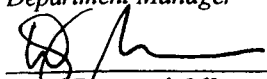
Reviewed by:


Division Manager

Reviewed by:


Department Manager

Reviewed by:


Chief Financial Officer



ThinkSwiss – Brainstorm the Future

Invitation

Study Tour on Public Transportation and
Mobility to Switzerland
August 25 – September 1, 2007

Mr. Hasan Ikhata
Director,
Planning and Policy Department
Southern California Association
of Governments
818 W. Seventh Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Ikhata

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Los Angeles and Presence Switzerland cordially invite you to join the study trip to Switzerland on Public Transportation and Mobility from August 25 to September 1, 2007.

Switzerland is located in the very heart of Europe. It connects Germany and Italy through the Alps with the world's largest tunnels. There is even more traffic on the East-West axis. To protect the fragile Alpine valleys and the densely populated urban areas, the Swiss population decided in several votes to shift the transportation of goods from trucks to trains. The Swiss public transportation with a sophisticated railway, bus, tram, and ship system is highly integrated and very popular. Because of its extraordinary quality and reliability Swiss public transport offers an equal mobility for all people, and serves frequently as an alternative to the car.

The program of the study trip will provide insights in the following fields of Public Transportation and Mobility in Switzerland:

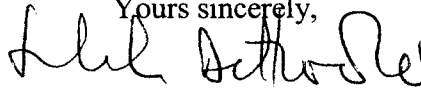
- Infrastructure (tunnel, bridges, maintenance) and rolling material (trains, handling cargo)
- Mobility as an integration of different means of transportation (train, bus, tram, ship, and car sharing), with a focus on timetable, tariffs, role of the different jurisdictions (federal state, cantons, municipalities) and private companies

- Long term financial aspects of mobility
- New concepts of mobility and transportation in rural and urban areas
- Science, technology and education in transportation planning and mobility
- Policy making: Direct democracy and federalism, sustainability, economic development, international relations, etc.

Organized by Presence Switzerland PRS with the assistance of the Swiss Consulate in Boston, the study trip focuses on guided research trips to significant sites, important organizations and innovative companies in different parts of Switzerland. For further details on the study trip please see the annex.

Should you be interested and able to attend this exclusive study trip to Switzerland on public transportation and mobility from August 25 to September 1, 2007, we kindly ask you to complete the attached form and return it to the Consulate General of Switzerland, c/o Norbert Arnold, 11766 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1400, Los Angeles, CA 90025 by June 18, 2007 at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brigitta Schoch Dettweiler', written in a cursive style.

Brigitta Schoch Dettweiler
Consul General of Switzerland

**Annex: Study Tour on Public Transportation and Mobility to Switzerland
August 25 – September 1, 2007**

Schedule of the tour

Saturday, August 25	Departure from your airport, United States
Sunday August 26	Arrival in Zurich, Switzerland, Welcome and introduction of the program in the afternoon
Monday August 27	Guided study trip on public transportation and mobility in Switzerland, detailed program follows, any suggestions welcome
Tuesday August 28	
Wednesday August 29	
Thursday, August 30	
Friday, August 31	
Saturday, September 1	Departure from Zurich and arrival to your airport, United States

Costs

Nominal charge of USD 400 per participant (non refundable)

PRS covers economy class flights from your US airport to Zurich Airport, accommodation and meals in Switzerland from August 26 to September 1, travel costs during the study trip. PRS does not cover any applicable hotel service fees (such as laundry) or charges for optional incidentals (such as minibar snacks, internet access or telephone calls).

Insurance

The participants of the study trip are insured against accidents during the study trip in Switzerland. PRS does not provide any other medical or health costs a participant may incur during and/or as a result of the study trip.

Participants

Limited to 9 participants from different US states (transportation experts, decision-makers, leading administrators, journalists)

ThinkSwiss

“Think Swiss – Brainstorm the future” is a US wide program on Education, Research and Innovation for 2007. It aims to highlight and showcase Switzerland as a global, knowledge-based country full of talent, high-tech opportunities and creativity – crucial assets to secure a sustainable quality of life for future generations. Its goal is to foster an even stronger network of long-term relations in education, research and innovation

between the United States and Switzerland. For further information visit the website www.thinkswiss.org

Contact and accompanying person

The study trip is organized and accompanied by

United States:

Remo Steinmetz, Senior Advisor
Consulate of Switzerland
420 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA
Phone +1 617 876 3076
Fax +1 617 876 3079
Email remo@shareboston.org
www.shareboston.org

Switzerland:

Lisa Schilling, Foreign Delegations Presence Switzerland PRS, Head of Team
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Bundesgasse 32
3003 Bern, Switzerland
Phone +41 31 324 10 54
Fax +41 31 324 10 60
E-Mail lisa.schilling@eda.admin.ch
www.presence.ch

Further information about Switzerland

www.swissworld.org

Switzerland's information portal



Registration

Study Tour on Public Transportation and Mobility to Switzerland

August 25 – September 1, 2007

Please fill in this form and fax or send it to the
Consulate General of Switzerland in Los Angeles by June 18, 2007 at the latest

Consulate General of Switzerland
11766 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1400
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Fax 310-575-1982
Phone 310-575-1145 Ext. 208
Email norbert.arnol@eda.admin.ch

Please include CVs and photos if available.

Participant available at	First name:	HASAN
	Family name:	IKHRATA
	Tel. 00../.../...	(213) 236-1944
	Fax 00../.../...	(213) 236-1963
	E-mail:	ikhrata@scag.ca.gov
	Website:	www.scag.ca.gov
	<input type="checkbox"/> female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> male	
Occupation	DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND POLICY	
Function		
Department	PLANNING AND POLICY	
Medium or institution / business	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG)	
For media representatives: Please provide details about the type of media and distribution	No. readers / listeners / viewers: Profile of target groups: Issued / broadcast: <input type="checkbox"/> daily <input type="checkbox"/> weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly Distribution: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> regional <input type="checkbox"/> local Brief description of the editorial slant (possible copies):	
For other institutions / businesses: Please provide details about size and distribution	Size: (turnover, number of employees, etc.) 125 Employees Number of branches: Area of activities: <input type="checkbox"/> international <input type="checkbox"/> national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> regional <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prior knowledge of Switzerland	Have you been in Switzerland before <input type="checkbox"/> yes* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no *If yes, why? (tourist, business, other) *And where, in connection with which topic?
Language skills	English: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fluent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> none German: <input type="checkbox"/> fluent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none French: <input type="checkbox"/> fluent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none
The topics of the visit have been mentioned in the letter of invitation. Please indicate any special interest or questions related to them: 	
Special requests regarding food	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian Other requests:
Special requests regarding accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/> Single room <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double room <input type="checkbox"/> Twin room <input type="checkbox"/> Non-smoking room <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smoking room Other requests:
Other remarks	

We gladly help you to organize your trip, please provide us with your travel preferences and return this form by June 15, 2007.

Travel Information:			
Flight to Zurich – Switzerland / ZRH		Return flight from Zurich – Switzerland / ZRH	
Departure date:	08/24/2007	Departure date:	10/01/2007*
Preferred departure time	11:00 a.m.	Preferred departure time	MORNING
Departure Airport US:	LAX	Arrival Airport US:	LAX

*I AM PLANNING TO INCLUDE A VACATION TRIP IN CONJUNCTION WITH MY VISIT TO SWITZERLAND.